

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new Claims 70 and 71 and amend the claims as shown below.

The claims, as currently pending in the application, read as follows:

1. to 60. (Cancelled)

61. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An equipment management system including a printer, a user terminal and a management server, comprising:
said user terminal comprising:
a failure code transmission unit adapted to transmit a failure code to the management server on the basis of a failure code notified by the printer,

said management server comprising:
a storage unit adapted to store a customer database constituted by user information for managing a user, a repair fee calculation table for calculating a repair fee estimate, and a price table for specifying a price of ~~an equipment~~ the printer of the user;
a check unit adapted to check whether the ~~equipment~~ printer of the user is under warranty by looking up the customer database on the basis of user information received from [[a]] the user terminal via a network;

[[a]] an estimation unit adapted to, if it is checked by said check unit that the ~~equipment~~ printer of the user is not under warranty, calculate the repair fee estimate by looking up the repair fee calculation table on the basis of [[a]] the failure code received from the user terminal;

a determination unit adapted to specify the price of the equipment printer of the user by looking up the price table on the basis of the failure code, and to determine whether a ratio of the calculated repair fee estimate to the specified price is a predetermined value or more; and

a transmission unit adapted to,

1) if it is determined by said determination unit that the ratio of the calculated repair fee estimate to the specified price is equal to or more than the predetermined value, transmit to the user terminal via the network window information for displaying making the user terminal display the calculated repair fee estimate and new products information, and window information for displaying making the user terminal display a window for designating a type of method for recovering an article to be repaired and a type of method for delivering the repaired article,

2) if it is determined by said determination unit that the ratio of the calculated repair fee estimate to the specified price is not equal to or more than the predetermined value, transmit to the user terminal via the network window information for displaying making the user terminal display the calculated repair fee estimate, and window information for displaying making the user terminal display a window for designating a type of method for recovering an article to be repaired and a type of method for delivering the repaired article,

3) if it is checked by said check unit that the equipment printer of the user is under warranty, transmit to the user terminal via the network window information for displaying making the user terminal display a window for designating a type of method for recovering an article to be repaired and a type of method for delivering the repaired article,

without transmitting ~~window~~ information for ~~displaying~~ making the user terminal display the calculated repair fee estimate.

62. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An equipment management server system according to claim 61, wherein said storage unit comprises a part specifying table for specifying parts for a repair target and a delivery date specifying table for specifying a delivery date, and wherein said estimation unit specifies a part required for repair by looking up the part specifying table on the basis of the received failure code, and specifies delivery data of the specified part by looking up the delivery date specifying table on the basis of the specified part.

63. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An equipment management server system according to claim 61, further comprising a unit adapted to transmit a type of method for recovering a part for repair to a delivery company terminal if it is checked by said check unit that the equipment printer of the user is under warranty, wherein the type of method is designated by a window at the user terminal for designating the type of method for recovering the part for repair.

64. (Currently Amended) An equipment management method executed by in an equipment management system including a printer, a user terminal and a management server storing a customer database constituted by user information for managing a user, a repair fee calculation table for calculating a repair fee estimate, and a price table for specifying a price of an equipment the printer of the user, comprising:

a failure code transmission step of transmitting a failure code from the user terminal to the management server on the basis of a failure code notified by the printer,

a checking step of checking whether the equipment printer of the user is under warranty by looking up the customer database on the basis of user information received from [[a]] the user terminal via a network;

[[a]] an estimation step of calculating, if it is checked in said checking step that the equipment printer of the user is not under warranty, the repair fee estimate by looking up the repair fee calculation table on the basis of [[a]] the failure code received from the user terminal;

a determination step of specifying the price of the equipment printer of the user by looking up the price table on the basis of the failure code, and determining to determine whether a ratio of the calculated repair fee estimate to the specified price is a predetermined value or more; and

a transmission step of,

1) if it is determined in said determination step that the ratio of the calculated repair fee estimate to the specified price is equal to or more than the predetermined value, transmitting to the user terminal via the network window information for displaying making the user terminal display the calculated repair fee estimate and new products information, and window information for displaying making the user terminal display a window for designating a type of method for recovering an article to be repaired and a type of method for delivering the repaired article,

2) if it is determined in said determination step that the ratio of the calculated repair fee estimate to the specified price is not equal to or more than the

predetermined value, transmitting to the user terminal via the network ~~window~~ information for displaying making the user terminal display the calculated repair fee estimate, and ~~window~~ information for displaying making the user terminal display a window for designating a type of method for recovering an article to be repaired and a type of method for delivering the repaired article,

3) if it is checked in said checking step that the equipment printer of the user is under warranty, transmitting to the user terminal via the network ~~window~~ information for displaying making the user terminal display a window for designating a type of method for recovering an article to be repaired and a type of method for delivering the repaired article, without transmitting ~~window~~ information for displaying making the user terminal display the calculated repair fee estimate.

65. (Previously Presented) An equipment management method according to claim 64, wherein said management server stores a part specifying table for specifying parts for a repair target and a delivery date specifying table for specifying delivery date, and wherein said estimation step specifies a part required for repair by looking up the part specifying table on the basis of the received failure code, and specifies delivery data of the specified part by looking up the delivery date specifying table on the basis of the specified part.

66. (Currently Amended) An equipment management method according to claim 64, further comprising a step of transmitting a type of method for recovering a part for repair to a delivery company terminal if it is checked in said checking step that the

equipment printer of the user is under warranty, wherein the type of method is designated by a window at the user terminal for designating the type of method for recovering the part for repair.

67. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium for storing a program executed by a management server storing a customer database constituted by user information for managing a user, a repair fee calculation table for calculating a repair fee estimate, and a price table for specifying a price of ~~an equipment~~ a printer of the user, the program causing the management server to execute:

a checking step of checking whether the equipment printer of the user is under warranty by looking up the customer database on the basis of user information received from a user terminal via a network;

[[a]] an estimation step of calculating, if it is checked in said checking step that the equipment printer of the user is not under warranty, the repair fee estimate by looking up the repair fee calculation table on the basis of a failure code received from the user terminal;

a determination step of specifying the price of the equipment printer of the user by looking up the price table on the basis of the failure code, and determining whether a ratio of the calculated repair fee estimate to the specified price is a predetermined value or more; and

a transmission step of,

1) if it is determined in said determination step that the ratio of the calculated repair fee estimate to the specified price is equal to or more than the

predetermined value, transmitting to the user terminal via the network ~~window~~ information for displaying making the user terminal display the calculated repair fee estimate and new products information, and ~~window~~ information for displaying making the user terminal display a window for designating a type of method for recovering an article to be repaired and a type of method for delivering the repaired article,

2) if it is determined in said determination step that the ratio of the calculated repair fee estimate to the specified price is not equal to or more than the predetermined value, transmitting to the user terminal via the network ~~window~~ information for displaying making the user terminal display the calculated repair fee estimate, and ~~window~~ information for displaying making the user terminal display a window for designating a type of method for recovering an article to be repaired and a type of method for delivering the repaired article,

3) if it is checked in said checking step that the ~~equipment printer~~ of the user is under warranty, transmitting to the user terminal via the network ~~window~~ information for displaying making the user terminal display a window for designating a type of method for recovering an article to be repaired and a type of method for delivering the repaired article, without transmitting ~~window~~ information for displaying making the user terminal display the calculated repair fee estimate.

68. (Currently Amended) A storage medium according to claim 67, wherein said management server stores a part specifying table for specifying parts for a repair target and a delivery date specifying table for specifying delivery date, and wherein said estimation step specifies a part required for repair by looking up the part specifying

table on the basis of the received failure code, and specifies delivery ~~[[data]]~~ date of the specified part by looking up the delivery date specifying table on the basis of the specified part.

69. (Currently Amended) A storage medium according to claim 67,
~~wherein if it is checked in said checking step that the equipment of the user is under warranty, the program causes the management server to execute~~ further comprising a step of transmitting a type of method for recovering a part for repair to a delivery company terminal if it is checked in said checking step that the printer of the user is under warranty, wherein the type of method is designated by a window at the user terminal for designating the type of method for recovering the part for repair.

70. (New) An equipment management system including a printer, a user terminal and a management server, comprising:

said user terminal comprising:

a failure code transmission unit adapted to transmit a failure code to the management server on the basis of a failure code notified by the printer,

said management server comprising:

a storage unit adapted to store a customer database constituted by user information for managing a user, a repair fee calculation table for calculating a repair fee estimate, and a price table for specifying a price of the printer of the user;

a check unit adapted to check whether the printer of the user is under warranty by looking up the customer database on the basis of user information received from the user terminal via a network;

an estimation unit adapted to, if it is checked by said check unit that the printer of the user is not under warranty, calculate the repair fee estimate by looking up the repair fee calculation table on the basis of the failure code received from the user terminal;

a determination unit adapted to specify the price of the printer of the user by looking up the price table on the basis of the failure code, and to determine whether a ratio of the calculated repair fee estimate to the specified price is a predetermined value or more; and

a transmission unit adapted to,

1) if it is determined by said determination unit that the ratio of the calculated repair fee estimate to the specified price is equal to or more than the predetermined value, transmit to the user terminal via the network information for making the user terminal display the calculated repair fee estimate and new products information,

2) if it is determined by said determination unit that the ratio of the calculated repair fee estimate to the specified price is not equal to or more than the predetermined value, transmit to the user terminal via the network information for making the user terminal display the calculated repair fee estimate,

3) if it is checked by said check unit that the printer of the user is under warranty, transmit to the user terminal via the network information for making the user terminal display a window for designating a type of method for recovering an article to be

repaired and a type of method for delivering the repaired article, without transmitting information for making the user terminal display the calculated repair fee estimate.

71. (New) An equipment management server, comprising:

a storage unit adapted to store a customer database constituted by user information for managing a user, a repair fee calculation table for calculating a repair fee estimate, and a price table for specifying a price of a printer of the user;

a check unit adapted to check whether the printer of the user is under warranty by looking up the customer database on the basis of user information received from a user terminal via a network;

an estimation unit adapted to, if it is checked by said check unit that the printer of the user is not under warranty, calculate the repair fee estimate by looking up the repair fee calculation table on the basis of a failure code received from the user terminal;

a determination unit adapted to specify the price of the printer of the user by looking up the price table on the basis of the failure code, and to determine whether a ratio of the calculated repair fee estimate to the specified price is a predetermined value or more; and

a transmission unit adapted to,

1) if it is determined by said determination unit that the ratio of the calculated repair fee estimate to the specified price is equal to or more than the predetermined value, transmit to the user terminal via the network information for making the user terminal display the calculated repair fee estimate and new products information,

2) if it is determined by said determination unit that the ratio of the calculated repair fee estimate to the specified price is not equal to or more than the predetermined value, transmit to the user terminal via the network information for making the user terminal display the calculated repair fee estimate,

3) if it is checked by said check unit that the printer of the user is under warranty, transmit to the user terminal via the network information for making the user terminal display a window for designating a type of method for recovering an article to be repaired and a type of method for delivering the repaired article, without transmitting information for making the user terminal display the calculated repair fee estimate.